



New England Sounding Line



The newsletter of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, New England Region, Jul - Aug. 1998, Vol. 8, No. 2

Is Fall an End or Beginning?

by John A. Stey, Associate Director

Last week we dropped our daughter off at Bucknell to begin her college career. I can't believe how quickly the time has gone by. As summer is ending, the fall is a beginning for many people starting new schools, careers and responsibilities. New students, residents and staff in our institutions present opportunities for training, programming, and budgeting. Most importantly, it's a time to cultivate new supporters for information access and services.

NLM is forging ahead with their migration to an Integrated Library System while we are preparing for a busy schedule of outreach in New England. The NER staff will participate in HealthTech '98 to be held in a new conference center at Baystate Medical Center featuring Dr. Daniel Masys of the University of California San Diego Informatics Department as the keynote speaker. Providence will host several meetings this fall that NER staff will attend including NELA, the New England Health Exposition, and the National Perinatal Association annual meeting. Nancy Putnam has outreach and PubMed training workshops booked in Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Ed Donnald is coordinating the Library Connections Project to upgrade computers in several institutions in the region. Vince Boisselle is overseeing the development of the 2nd Generation EFTS and keeping the NER server up to warp speed with plans to upgrade the server software. The Education Coordinator position remains vacant but the interviewing process continues. We anticipate having the position filled in the near future.

The NER staff is looking forward to another stimulating NAHSL meeting and program. Some important topics for discussion at NAHSL are consumer health, online SERHOLD[®] reporting, new DOCLINE[®] and PubMed[®] enhancements. Your thoughts and concerns are welcome anytime via the 800-338-7657 telephone number, e-mail or the NEHSL listserv. Better still, bring them to Boston and drop by our booth.

We would also like to welcome Elaine Martin as the new Director of the Lamar Soutter Medical School Library at the UMass Medical Center.

Enjoy what's left of summer and we will see you in September.

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Connecticut Maine Massachusetts New Hampshire Rhode Island Vermont

Check us out on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/ner/>

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John Stey, *Editor*
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Library Connections Project

by Edward Donnald, *Network Coordinator*

The National Library of Medicine, the worlds largest medical library, continues to demonstrate it's commitment to providing access to medical and healthcare information around the globe. Although the Internet allows librarians, healthcare providers and consumers the same opportunities, NLM has not lost sight of the role the medical library community plays. It's great that MEDLINE® is now available via PubMed, that additional databases are being migrated to Internet access and that DOCLINE, DOCUSER® and SERHOLD will all be web based by this time next year, but "If you build it, will they come?" Last summer, the NLM conducted a survey of medical libraries to determine if they were connected to the Internet and at what level. If NLM's products were only available via the Internet, an important first step was to determine who would be left behind. The survey data was then analyzed by the NN/LM offices and those who had indicated no Internet access were contacted to see if that had changed or what the NN/LM could do to help facilitate the library getting access to the Internet. For libraries having trouble convincing administration of the merits of the Internet, NLM is preparing to send out a brochure and informational packet to be used by the librarian in making the case for a connection. For libraries where equipment costs were a consideration, the NN/LM looked to provide the computers and connections costs in a Library Connections Project.

Currently, the NER office has three sites participating, Blue Hill Memorial Hospital, Blue Hill, ME; Rehabilitation Hospital of the Cape and Islands, E. Sandwich, MA; and Androscoggin Vally Hospital, Berlin, NH. Teresa Leary at RHCI reports that she is now conducting PubMed training classes for Occupational and Physical Therapists. Kim Horton at Blue Hill Hospital indicated that besides staff, the community can now come in to the library and access healthcare information using both Internet Grateful Med® and PubMed. Finally, Joyce Leclerc at Androscogin Valley Hospital relayed that with her new computer and Internet connection "The Medical Records, Occupational Health and Nursing directors have accessed the Federal Register and OSHA to get information on new rulings dealing with health care." The Purchasing Director now comes to the library to get information on supplies and equipment available on the Internet and even a maintenance staff worker who had inquired about a medical condition was shown how to search PubMed and the Internet for information.

All three locations have expanded their resources available to their organization and community by participating in a NN/LM Library Connections Project. And the NLM hasn't stopped there. As a result of the feedback from "The Bethesda Fifteen" as they are now known, changes and enhancements are continually being made to improve the resources available. [see Speed, p. 5] with more on the way.



So, you've coasted through the summer telling yourself you'll do it "tomorrow." It's now time to sieze the moment and phone in those changes to your DOCLINE routing table. If you want to do a total redesign, ask for a copy of your current table along with the instructions for making revisions. If it's not quite so drastic, call or e-mail the Network Coordinator with the changes. In most cases they are made that day. Don't let another day go by with a routing table that's not what you really want. If you're looking for new libraries, take a look at the EFTS participants list for potential new partners from Region 1.

DOCLINE Changes Tel: 860-679-4793

E-mail: donnald@nso.uchc.edu

Announcing the Consumer Health Reference Center for Massachusetts

by Kate Kelly, Treadwell Library, Massachusetts General Hospital

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners recently contracted with the Treadwell Library at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston to be the Consumer Health Reference Center (CHRC) for the state of Massachusetts.

The Strategic Plan for the Future of Libraries in Massachusetts identifies the provision of access to specialized reference, research and information centers as one of the most important value added services to be provided to all libraries that are members of one of the six, new regional library systems.

The Consumer Health Reference Center is one such specialized reference service providing access to consumer health information resources. Two other specialized services will provide access to business and legal information resources.

CHRC services are available to library staff at all regional member libraries and include a mediated reference service which is intended to supplement local and regional resources when local or regional resources have been unable to meet the needs. Other services include a quarterly newsletter, a series of continuing education workshops, and a web page of evaluated consumer health internet sites.

CHRC Contact Information:

Toll Free: 1- 877- MEDI REF
1- 877- 633 4733
Tel: (617) 726 8600
Email: askus@medex.mgh.harvard.edu
Web: <http://www.mgh.harvard.edu/library/chrcindex.html>
Fax: (617) 726 6784
Mail: Treadwell Library
Bartlett Hall Extension 1
Massachusetts General Hospital
55 Fruit Street, Boston, MA 02114

NLM has given us four copies of a report prepared by the Western Governors' Association. The report provides an overview of telemedicine policy and management issues in 18 western states and a snapshot of telemedicine, telecommunications, and related infrastructure activities and services in those states. The report may contain useful information to institutions with an interest in telemedicine. If you are interested in borrowing a copy, please let us know.



We are pleased to inform you that Internet Grateful Med (IGM) version 2.6 was released on Wednesday, September 2, 1998.

The new version searches MEDLINE and PREMEDLINE using the retrieval engine of NLM's PubMed system. IGM 2.6 also includes 5 additional NLM databases: BIOETHICSLINE®, CHEMID®, POPLINE®, SPACELINE®, and TOXLINE®.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Larry Kingsland via phone: 301-496-9300 or e-mail (kingsland@nlm.nih.gov).

New Look for NER Website

by Vincent Boisselle, Technology Coordinator



Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity! I say, let your affairs be as two or three, and not a hundred or a thousand; instead of a million count half a dozen, and keep your accounts on your thumb-nail. Henry David Thoreau (1817-62), U.S. philosopher, author, naturalist. Walden, "Where I Lived, and What I Lived For" (1854).

Heeding the advice of Mr. Thoreau, we have undertaken a redesign of the NER Homepage. The new streamlined design will hopefully make it easier to find the information you need on our website.

An essential element to the new design is the use of icons to represent the functions of our office. The handy icons (as well as a textual menu) appear on each page and allow for swift navigation within the site's framework.

The corresponding regional coordinator is updating each area, and strive to keep the information current and correct.

Feedback and suggestions relating to the design and content are encouraged, hopefully that you will 'dog-ear' our page as a regular stop.

<http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/ner>

Training Tips

by Nancy Putnam, Outreach Coordinator

It is that time of year again. Students are coming back, vacations are over, and research is in full force. It's the perfect time to hold PubMed training classes for your staff, faculty, and students. Here is a handy tip sheet on points to cover.

EXPLAIN PubMed

- Authority: Created by National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) located at NLM which is located at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.
- Compared to other free MEDLINE's PubMed and IGM are more current because NLM is the owner of MEDLINE and they put citations into PubMed as soon as they receive them while others have to wait for them to be indexed, saved to disk, and shipped out. It is also the most complete, since others can choose to allow access to only specific portions of MEDLINE, PubMed always gives access to the entire database.

EXPLAIN MEDLINE

- Index Medicus®, International Index to Nursing Journals, Index to Dental Journals
- Coverage: medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the health care system and pre-clinical sciences.
- Bibliographic citations and author abstracts when available from over 4000 biomedical journals published in the US and 70 foreign countries.
- 9 Million records dating from 1966 to present, updated weekly.

HOME PAGE

- Show the URL (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/>) and explain that this is the homepage that PubMed will always open to and it is also the basic search mode screen.
- Explain that all the features of PubMed can be located in the gray sidebar located on the left side of the screen.
- Explain uses of overview, help, new/noteworthy, and clinical alerts - skip the middle section and show the links to NLM, NCBI, and NIH. You can explain here that NIH has good consumer information so if a physician needed to refer a patient they may want to suggest NIH's homepage to use first rather than the more technical PubMed articles.

BASIC MODE

- Search Term: use at least two words, preferably at least one, two word phrase and one term that will map to a different MeSH term. This will demonstrate both the phrase index feature as well as the mapping feature. Often used is vitamin c common cold as terms because they exhibit all the desired features.
- Note: when discussing MeSH explain that it is a controlled vocabulary or a set of terms by which each article is indexed. Tell them that using MeSH® terms will give you a more precise search because you will not retrieve articles that only briefly mention the term as a keyword search would. Therefore if an article is about vitamin c the indexed term or synonym would be ascorbic acid. End by mentioning the good thing about PubMed is that you don't have to know what the indexed words are because PubMed will usually map to the appropriate MeSH term for you.
- Type your chosen phrase into the text box and click on search.

RESULTS SCREEN

- Very Important Section: take your time explaining it because it will save you time in the long run. Begin with the Details button to demonstrate the way the phrase index and mapping worked. Tell them this is where the computer interprets your search and it is a good place to go if you are not retrieving the results that you expected.
- Locate number of retrievals.

Continued on page 7

Is This Web Site Worth Bookmarking?

by *Ralph Arcari, Director*

Web sites to the left, web sites to the right. They seem to be growing in numbers and as information professionals we are called to make decisions on which ones to include in the resources we offer our patrons.

A set of criteria to be used in evaluating medical websites has been developed by the Information Technology committee of the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries in conjunction with Association of American Medical Colleges.

Quality Criteria for Health Information on the Internet

The Information Quality Tool (IQ)

Revision 2.0

August 24, 1998

Factual Questions

(20% weighting; 1.82 points per question)

Yes No

1. Did you connect to the site without problems?
2. Does the site contain spelling or grammatical errors?
3. Is the author (person(s)/group) identified?
4. Does the site have a statement of purpose?
5. Does the site have a disclaimer?
6. Is there an editorial review process?
7. Is the site an advertisement?
8. If the information is from another source, is that source cited?
9. Is there evidence that the site is reviewed and updated regularly?
10. Do documents within the site indicate the dates they were created?
11. Does the site allow user feedback?
12. Does the site have an internal search engine?

Evaluative Questions

(80% weighting; 10 points maximum per question)

Always	Mostly	Sometimes	Rarely	No/never
10	7.5	5	2.5	0

1. Is the author (person/group) a reliable source for this information?
2. Does the information appear to be accurate?
3. Is the bias of the site disclosed early?
4. Does the site mention all sides of the issue?
5. Does the content match the site purpose?
6. Is the language/reading level appropriate for the purpose of the site?
7. Does the information appear to be current?
8. Is the site organized in a way that makes it easy and intuitive to use?

Putting PubMed on the Fast Track



Effective August 3, 1998, NLM implemented a system enhancement that dramatically increases the speed of the system. This redesign of the way PubMed stored and retrieved information will improve users search time -- a search that previously took approximately 18 seconds to run in PubMed now runs under 2 seconds.

Outreach Subcontracts Awarded

by *Nancy Putnam, Outreach Coordinator*



We are pleased to announce the following awards for the 1998-1999 Outreach Subcontracts.

VT-CHIP and Shared Medical Decision-Making

Charles A. Dana Medical Library - University of Vermont

This subcontract focuses on the communication between the patient and the health care provider by encouraging the patient to make informed medical decisions stemming from information packets that have been "prescribed" by the health care provider. VT-CHIP will be the provider of this information. The impact of the information packet on shared medical decision making and health care outcomes will also be measured.

Internet Access and Training Program for an Urban Public Health Department

Epidemiology and Public Health Library - Yale University School of Medicine

The purpose of this subcontract is to promote the use of the Internet in obtaining current biomedical information relevant to the practice of public health by professional staff of the New Haven Health Department. This task will be accomplished by providing and setting up equipment, training sessions, and follow-up support.

Congratulations to our two recipients. The request for proposals for outreach subcontracts are sent out each spring and a copy of last years RFP is available from the outreach section of our website. Now is an excellent time to start thinking about a project for next year.

I Remember When

by Cheryl Sinkler, NN/LM NER



Interested in learning about librarianship in the early 1900's and how some of your counterparts got started and became interested in the profession? How many started in such fields as Nursing, Music, Teaching and Laboratory Technology to name a few and made the transition to librarianship? Who were some of the first professional librarians at the National Library Medicine? How did some endure the depression and World War II but were still able to fulfill their dream of becoming a librarian?

To read about many of the interesting events and obstacles librarians once faced, the Medical Library Association, Oral History Committee has supplied the NN/LM NER with 43 copies of interviews conducted with librarians between 1977-1990. You may obtain a printed copy on loan simply by calling or e-mail - Cheryl Sinkler at the NN/LM

NER office. (860) 679-4500 or sinkler@nso.uchc.edu.

Copies of the interview tapes and the original transcripts are in the MLA archives at the National Library of Medicine.

Interview	Interviewer and Date Interviewed	Interview	Interviewer and Date Interviewed
Scott Adams	Carol Fenichel - 3/80	Frederick G. Kilgour	R.M. Watterson - 5/85
Gertrude L. Annan	V. Glasgow & M. Ebert - 11/77 & Estelle Brodman - 8/78	Gertrude Lamb	Estelle Brodman - 3/85
Robert B. Austin	Estelle Brodman - 9/80	Mildred Langner	Nancy Bruce - 12/85
Harold J. Bloomquist	Estelle Brodman - 4/78	Robert Lentz	Carolyn Morris - 4/84
Alfred N. Brandon	Ruth W. Wender - 5/85	Erika Love	Suzanne Porter - 7/86 & 11/87
Estelle Brodman	Mrs. Bertell and others - 11/78 & Nancy Zinn - 5/81	Mary Louise Marshall	Estelle Brodman - 10/97
Sarah Cole Brown	Ruth W. Wender - 3/85	Jess A. Martin	Ann Carroll Bunting - 10/90
Elizabeth W. J. Chase	Carol H. Fenichel - 5/85	Nana L. Matheson	Nancy Bruce - 10/86
Gilbert Clausman	Estelle Brodman - 11/83	Priscilla M. Mayden	Alison Bunting - 7/88
Helen Crawford	Judith Overmier - 11/78	Lois Miller	Estelle Brodman - 10/81
Martin Cummings	Gerald J. Oppenheimer - 6/87	Ursula Poland	Estelle Brodman - 12/82 & 1/83
Louise Darling	David Bishop - 4/81	William Postell	Estelle Brodman - 10/77
Janet Doe	Estelle Brodman - 7/77	Margueriete L. Prime	M.A. Flower - 5/85
Wesley B. Draper	Estelle Brodman - 3/80	Frank Bradway Rogers	Nancy Z. Whitten - 1/79
Shirley Echelmann	Estelle Brodman - 10/81	Elizabeth D. Runge	David A. Kronick - 3/80
Thomas P. Fleming	Vicki Glasgow - 12/78	Charles W. Sargent	Ann Gilmer - 2/85
Bertha B. Hallam	Nancy W. Zinn - 5/78	Winifred Sewell	Carol Fenichel - 5/84
Grace Hamlyn	M.A. Flower - 4/83	Seymour Taine	Carol Fenichel - 10/82
Bernice Hetzner	Ruth W. Wender	Wilma Troxel	M. S. Flower - 2/86
Irene M. Jones	Estelle Brodman - 10/78	Donald Washburn	Nancy W. Zinn - 5/83
Ann E. Kerker	Nancy W. Zinn - 5/83	Helen T. Yast	Nancy W. Zinn - 4/82
Thomas Keys	Estelle Brodman - 4/78		

A more indepth description of the Medical Library Association Oral History Program can be found in the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*. [McKenzie D, Pifalo V. "The Oral History Program: I. Personal views of health sciences librarianship and the Medical Library Association." *Bull Med Libr Assoc* 1998 Apr;86(2):166-82.] URL:<http://www.allenpress.com/mla/issues/vol86/number2/86-2-166.html>

Portrait of Colonel Frank Bradway Rogers, M.D., (1914-1987)
Director of the National Library of Medicine from 1949 to 1963
Artist: Frederick C. Truckness
Commissioned for the Library by the Gillmore Bequest

Image taken from *An Online Art and Architecture Tour of the U.S. National Library of Medicine*, <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/tour/generic/>

- Three ways to display articles:
 - 1 Immediately clicking on Display will display the entire page worth of articles in the long format (at this point explain the difference between the long and short format and discuss elements of each. Explain PMID vs UI).
 - 2 Displaying selected articles
 - 3 Displaying individual articles
 - 4 Repeat the three ways to display articles
- Three formats
 - 1 Abstract as default
 - 2 Citation, useful to see how the articles were indexed for possible modification of query.
 - 3 MEDLINE used for reference manager programs and state if they don't know what a reference manager program is then they don't need to know. It is good however to show them what search fields are as a prelude to the advanced mode.
 - 4 Repeat the three formats and their qualities
- Demonstrate printing, saving, ordering (give them your LIBID to sign up for Loansome Doc if desired), going to the next page, how to change docs per page and why you would want to do so, explain entrez date vs pub date, show them the link back to the homepage in the titlebar and the help link.
- See related articles: explain it is great if you are not finding what you want but articles are arranged in relevancy order rather than reverse chronological order as all the others are and that the results are not modifiable.
- Demonstrate an author search and show them where they can locate the proper format if forgotten.

ADVANCED MODE

- Search Fields: show in pull down menu and explain the usefulness of searching with fields. Using language as an example explain if you search English in all fields you may find articles written in a different language but that have the word English somewhere in the article.
- Search Terms: here begin with two terms that you can OR together that will yield a substantial number of hits. Then use the add terms to query to AND a term and continue to use this feature with different search fields to limit the query even more.
- Retrieving citations: same result screen as Basic mode.
- List Terms mode: useful for unknown spellings.

MeSH BROWSER

- Assess participants: are they still alert, have they been asking thoughtful questions demonstrating an understanding of the system (show browser) or repetitive questions demonstrating discomfort with the material (skip browser)?
- Search term: use a term that does not automatically map but gives a list of terms to choose from. Example exertional asthma.
- Detailed display: explain subheadings and major topic heading, not too much detail about the trees and explosion.
- Remember, once you leave the MeSH browser you can not go back during the current search.

CLINICAL QUERIES

- Explain filters and stress the limited results, isn't everything on a subject.
- Show table
- Define sensitivity and specificity
- Run a search (using the same search terms as in the Basic mode demonstrates the difference in number of retrieval.)

JOURNAL BROWSER

Calendar of Events

September 10-13, 1998

The NER staff will be exhibiting at the Maine Medical Association Meeting
Rockport, ME

September 16, 1998

Satellite Downlink
"Evidence-Based Health Care in Action"
UCHC
Farmington, CT

September 26-29, 1998

NAHSL'98
Visions of the Future, Reflections on the Past
Boston, MA
<http://nnlmner.uchc.edu/nahsl/nahsl98/>

October 4-6, 1998

The NER staff will be exhibiting at New England Library Association
Providence, RI

October 30, 1998

Health Tech '98
Baystate Medical Center
Springfield, MA

October 23, 1998

Toxicology Forum '98
UCHC
Farmington, CT



Continued from page 7

- Demonstrate how to find out if a journal is indexed in PubMed with or without the full title.
- Demonstrate how to find journal abbreviations from title words or find full titles from abbreviations.
- Demonstrate how to locate "table of contents" (most recently indexed articles) for a given journal.

CITATION MATCHER

- Fill in some of the blanks.

If you want to cover everything in this hand out, put aside about 2 hours of class time or if you speak quickly 1.5 hours. If you have only a limited time, one hour or less, decide whether you want to demonstrate the basic or advanced mode and then just stick with a detailed explanation of how to manipulate the results. Please contact Nancy Putnam at the National Network of Libraries of Medicine™ if you have any other questions about training users to search PubMed.

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